

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.942
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

TOURISM IN THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

942 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to promote tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (b) the details of the tourism development strategy designed for the development of tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to increase water and air transportation services to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to promote tourism?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Ministry of Tourism promotes India in a holistic manner, through various initiatives under its Schemes of “Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality” (DPPH) and “Overseas Promotion & Publicity (OPP)”, including in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As part of its on-going activities, it regularly releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international markets, under the “Incredible India” brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India as well as regularly promote various tourism destinations and products through its website and social media promotions.

(b): The Ministry of Tourism has undertaken the following initiatives for the development of tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands:-

- i. To position India, including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as a preferred destination for adventure tourism, eco-tourism and Rural Tourism, globally, Ministry of Tourism has formulated National Strategies for Adventure Tourism, Eco-tourism and Rural Tourism. Destination and Product Development and Public Private and Community Partnerships and have been inter alia identified as strategic pillars identified for development of ecotourism in the strategy document.
- ii. For a better and smooth travel experience of tourists to the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Ministry of Tourism regularly coordinates with Ministry of Home Affairs and as a result, Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) for a further period of 5 Years i.e. till 31.12.2027 for the identified Islands in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, subject to certain conditions which has been notified.

(c): Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to extend financial support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), with the purpose of further improving connectivity to important tourist places. At present, 59 Tourism RCS (T-RCS) routes have been approved by the Ministry of Tourism, out of which 51 are operational. Ministry of Tourism has also submitted its request for inclusion of Port Blair – Shibpur – Port Blair sector under Tourism-RCS routes for improving air connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, subject to total approved budget outlay and validity of Champion Service sector Scheme till 31.03.2024.
